## THE COURT OF APPEALS

The Constitution of 1963 provides for a court of appeals, whose jurisdiction is provided by law and the practice and procedure prescribed by rules of the supreme court. The court of appeals has 28 judges, who are nominated and elected at nonpartisan elections. The judges are elected from 4 districts as provided by Act 190 of 1993.

The legislature may increase the number of judges and alter the districts from which they are elected by amending the state law. A candidate for the court of appeals must be a lawyer, under 70 years of age, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which he or she is running.

Judges are elected for 6-year terms. Their salaries are set by the legislature. Every 2 years a chief judge is selected by the supreme court. In addition to hearing cases, the chief judge performs administrative duties and other assignments required by the supreme court.

The court of appeals hears civil and criminal cases.

Three-judge panels of the court of appeals hear cases in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Marquette. The panels are rotated to encourage statewide uniformity in rulings by eliminating the likelihood of conflicting legal philosophies developing in specific geographical areas. The procedure for hearing cases is similar to that followed by the supreme court. The decision of a panel of the court of appeals is final except in those cases where the decision is reviewed by the supreme court.

## Activities and Workload

In 1998, 8,264 cases were filed with the Michigan Court of Appeals. This represents a decrease of 7% from the 8,866 cases filed in 1997 and a 38% increase over the 5,980 cases filed in 1980. The court of appeals disposed of 8,806 cases during 1998, a decrease of 14% over the 10,242 cases disposed of in 1997 and a 70% increase over the 5,193 cases disposed of in 1980.

The average number of cases filed in the court of appeals per judge has increased over the years. In 1998, there was an average of 295 cases filed per judge while in 1965 there were only 137 filings per judge. The number of judges increased from 9 in 1965 to 12 in 1969, to 18 in 1975, to 24 in 1989, and to 28 in 1995.

Prior to 1998, court of appeals' statistics reflected one case per each lower court number that was referenced in a file. Starting in 1998, these statistics reflect one case per each court of appeals docket number regardless of how many lower court docket numbers might be referenced in that file

TRENDS IN DISPOSITIONS BY OPINION OR ORDER IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Year	Number Disposed	Disposed by Opinion	Percent Opinion	Disposed by Order	Percent Order
1983	6,690	3,791	56.7	2,899	43.3
1984	6,605	3,775	57.2	2,899	43.9
1985	6,308	3,694	57.8	2,614	40.9
1986	6,573	3,858	58.7	2,715	41.3
1987	7,502	4,179	55.7	3,323	44.3
1988	8,508	4,874	57.3	3,628	42.7
1989	8,983	4,976	55.4	4,007	44.6
1990	10,503	4,729	45.0	5,774	55.0
1991	10,237	4,627	45.0	5,610	55.0
1992	11,662	5,300	45.4	6,362	54.6
1993	13,037	6,240	47.9	6,797	52.1
1994	12,824	6,332	49.4	6,492	50.6
1995	12,596	5,968	47.4	6,628	52.6
1996	10,842	4,774	44.0	6,068	56.0
1997	10,242	4,418	43.0	5,824	57.0
1998	8,806	3,013	34.0	5,793	66.0

Source: State Court Administrative Office